

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
EA-10 FRB-03 INR-10 IO-13 NEA-10 NSAE-00 USIA-06
OPIC-03 SP-02 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 AGRE-00
OMB-01 SS-15 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 /105 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/RPE: RLAMANTIA:WRF
APPROVED BY EUR/RPE: EACASEY
EUR/RPE:PLAASE
DOC:DPETERSON

-----031158 300019Z /21

O R 292315Z MAR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

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USOECD

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: OECD, EIND, GW, US

SUBJECT: CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE OECD INDUSTRY COMMITTEE

REF.: A) STATE 79918; B) PARIS 10131

1. REGARDING FRANK WEIL'S CANDIDACY FOR CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE OECD INDUSTRY COMMITTEE, REF A CONTAINS THE PRESENTATION WE HAVE ASKED POSTS TO MAKE IN OECD CAPITALS OTHER THAN BONN.

2. THE DEPARTMENT SHARES USOECD'S ASSESSMENT (REF B) THAT WE MAY HAVE A FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCE OF OPINION WITH THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GERMANS REGARDING THE FUTURE WORK OF THE INDUSTRY COMMITTEE. OUR VIEW IS THAT THE HEAD OF THE INDUSTRY DIRECTORATE (BECKLER, US) MAY HAVE TRIED TO MOVE TOO FAST IN RE-DIRECTING THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE. NOW, SLIGHTLY OVER A YEAR LATER, WITH THE HELP OF OUTGOING CHAIRMAN WOODS, BECKLER HAS CAREFULLY CULTIVATED MOST OF THE DELEGATIONS WHICH NOW SUPPORT A BROADENING OF THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE. MRS.

BUCHNER-SCHOPF IS ALMOST ISOLATED IN HER OPPOSITION TO THIS NEW ROLE. THUS, IN APPROACHING THE FRG ON THIS ISSUE, EMBASSY MAY WISH TO AVOID REFERENCES TO NEW TRENDS AND INITIATIVES IN THE COMMITTEE. INSTEAD, WE SUGGEST THE FOLLOWING TALKING POINTS:

-- WOODS HAS DONE A FIRST CLASS JOB AS CHAIRMAN. AS THE SENIOR DEPUTY IN THE OFFICE OF PRIME MINISTER FRASER, HE HAS ENHANCED THE STATURE OF THE COMMITTEE AND WE BELIEVE THAT A PERSON OF SIMILAR STATURE SHOULD REPLACE HIM.

-- THE USG BELIEVES THAT A CHANGING WORLD ECONOMY NECESSITATES CHANGING INITIATIVES IN THE OECD. THE INDUSTRY COMMITTEE MUST PLAY AN INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE AFFAIRS OF THE ORGANIZATION AS IT BEGINS TO CONTEND WITH THE DIFFICULT ECONOMIC REALITIES OF TODAY.

-- THE USG IS GIVING A MUCH HIGHER PRIORITY TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE AND WISHES TO BACK UP THIS INCREASED INTEREST BY PUTTING FORWARD A HIGHLY QUALIFIED AND DYNAMIC CANDIDATE FOR THE CHAIRMANSHIP.

-- AS ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR INDUSTRY AND TRADE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, FRANK WEIL HAS WIDE RANGING RESPONSIBILITIES. HE OVERSEES ALL US EXPORTS, TRADE ASSISTANCE, DOMESTIC COMMERCE, INTERNATIONAL FINANCE AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INVESTMENT, AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE POLICY. IF ELECTED, WEIL INTENDS TO DEVOTE HIMSELF AND THE RESOURCES OF HIS DEPARTMENT TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE. COOPER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INDUSTRY, COMMITTEES, NEGOTIATIONS, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS, EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE081096
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RLAMANTIA:WRF
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780137-0177
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780311/aaaaajlk.tel
Line Count: 97
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: fe9b24b9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 79918, 78 PARIS 10131
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3128391
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE OECD INDUSTRY COMMITTEE
TAGS: EIND, GE, US, OECD
To: BONN USOECD
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/fe9b24b9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014